

The eighth annual meeting of the Pacific Association of Railway Surgeons, which was held in San Francisco toward the end of August, **RAILWAY SURGEONS** was a very successful one in every way. Some dozen or more papers were read (nearly all of these will appear in subsequent issues of *THE JOURNAL*), to unusually large audiences and the discussions were gratifying as indicating the interest taken in the association and in the special problems of one dealing with railway work. Each of the two days' sessions began with an excellent lunch served at the St. Francis, and the discussion of papers followed upon the completion of the luncheon. Anything that will bring together men who have common interests and a common work, but who are geographically separated, is a good thing; it is well for men of similar occupations and similar interests to know each other personally and not as mere units in the problem, without personal interest or identity. The association began in a small way and struggled for existence during its early youth, but now it seems to be growing and developing and serving a very useful purpose. The officers elected for the coming year are as follows: President, Dr. O. D. Hamlin, Oakland; first vice-president, Dr. Wallace I. Terry, San Francisco; second vice-president, Dr. Robert T. Legge, McCloud; treasurer, Dr. E. M. Keys, Alameda, and secretary, Dr. G. R. Carson. Dr. Carson has been the secretary now for some few years and has done much to build up the association.

More inquiries have reached us as to the standing of the Empire Life Insurance Company, of Seattle. The question is hard to answer. **EMPIRE COMPANY** *A priori*, any company, concern or individual who has a legitimate enterprise and applies to physicians to buy stock in it as a business proposition, should be regarded with suspicion; there are enough capitalists—and a few over—to take up all the stock of any company that is a "sure thing winner." The company, in some published matter, undated but recently received, announces that it does not expect to begin writing insurance before "the first of the year," at which time it hopes to have in the treasury one and one-half millions of dollars. It lays great stress upon the fact that it is to select its examiners and its "health bureaus" from the best physicians; but if the purchase of stock is to insure one a job or connection of this sort, where does the selective process come in? Merit, ability, standing, professional qualifications will mean nothing, unless there is some misunderstanding, as against the holding of a few or a many shares of stock. How this haphazard choosing of examiners is going to effect the reliability of the policies and therefore of the company, does not seem to need much explanation. A twenty-dollar share of stock in the Empire Life may be worth as much as, or even more, than a twenty-dollar gold piece; but why this anxiety to sell stock to physicians?

The directors of Cooper Medical College are to be congratulated upon their effort, crowned with success, to resume the annual course **THE LANE LECTURES** of Lane Lectures. For the past few years, owing to the "peculiar" manner in which the money left by Dr. Lane, supposedly for this and other purposes of the College, became diverted into the possession of an individual, the directors have been unable to provide funds for carrying on this work originated by Dr. Lane and supported by his funds. The course for 1910 was delivered by Dr. Reginald Heber Fitz, of Harvard University, at various dates between the 12th and 20th of September, and covered the very interesting subject of the lymphatic system, status lymphaticus, etc. The attendance was good and the lectures were appreciated by the many physicians who took advantage of the opportunity to hear them.

CARNEGIE FOUNDATION REPORT ON MEDICAL EDUCATION; A REPLY TO THE CRITICISMS FROM COOPER MEDICAL COLLEGE.

The following communication has been received from Dr. Pritchett and as the letter from the faculty of Cooper College was published in the last issue, the reply to that letter, which was somewhat in the nature of criticism of the report, is published herewith.

Teignmouth, England,

August 29, 1910.

My Dear Sir:—Let me acknowledge your courteous letter of the twenty-fifth of July, written on behalf of the faculty of the Cooper Medical College, in which you object to certain expressions in the description of that school as it appeared in the recent Report on Medical Education in the United States and Canada, issued by the Carnegie Foundation. The Foundation is desirous of securing in its reports as great accuracy as possible and welcomes any such courteous statement as that which you and your colleagues have sent. Let me endeavor in the same spirit to point out a little more clearly the standpoint from which the report was prepared and to give the reasons which make us feel that the report represented the essential facts concerning the school.

Your letter seems to me to some extent to be founded upon a misconception; for the report does not profess to deal with the Cooper Medical College now passing out of existence, but only to deal with it in so far as it is taken over by Leland Stanford Junior, University. This is made clear on page 193, where the institution is described not as "Cooper Medical College" but as "Leland Stanford Junior, University School of Medicine on the Cooper Medical College Foundation."